

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-22, 32-33, and 37-38. The claims are set forth below.

1-22 Cancelled

23. (Original) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device, comprising:

 inserting a tip of the introducer needle and an intravenous catheter into a human body;

 simultaneously depressing and releasing release tabs of a hollow body of the an intravenous catheter placement device, thereby retracting the tip of the introducer needle inside an end of the intravenous catheter;

 inserting the intravenous catheter further into the human body; simultaneously depressing the release tabs thereby triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub; and

 projecting the needle hub and needle into the hollow body and retaining the needle hub and needle in the hollow body.

24. (Original) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body, comprising:

 inserting a tip of the introducer needle with a catheter into a patient; and

 simultaneously depressing release tabs affixed to the hollow body at least once to blunt the tip of the introducer needle into the catheter and to retract the introducer needle into the hollow body.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising: orienting the hollow body such that a message on the hollow body is readable by a clinician.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising: verifying that the catheter is inserted into the correct location by observing blood flash-back into a magnified transparent verification cavity in a needle hub.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

confirming retraction of the introducer needle by observation of an audible clicking sound when the release tabs are depressed; and

securing the introducer needle in the hollow body by force of an energy storage device.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising: eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a boot cooperating with an interior surface of a catheter head such that blood flow is restricted from flowing back into the hollow body.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising: eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a shuttle and an energy storage device positioned in a passageway of a nose that couples to the hollow body such that when the introducer needle passes the shuttle, the shuttle becomes unrestrained and is projected into the passageway by the energy storage device and blocks the passageway, thereby restricting blood flow back into the hollow body.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a shuttle;
and

an energy storage device positioned in a passageway of a nose that couples to the hollow body.

31. (Original) A method for retracting a needle affixed in a needle hub in a hollow body of an intravenous catheter placement device, comprising:

depressing release tabs having contact pads integral to the hollow body such that the contact pads apply force to winged beams of the needle hub having catches at their ends held by retainer slots in the hollow body;

releasing catches of the needle hub from the retainer slots and triggering the needle hub by releasing energy stored in an energy storage device;

projecting the needle hub and needle towards a closed end of the hollow body;
and

securing the needle hub and needle in an interior of the hollow body with residual force from the energy storage device.

32-33 Cancelled

34. (Original) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body, comprising:

inserting a tip of the needle with a catheter into a patient;

blunting the tip of the needle into the catheter by depressing release tabs affixed to the hollow body; and

depressing the release tabs to retract the needle into the hollow body.

35. (Original) A process for placing an intravenous catheter into a human body, comprising:

inserting an introducer needle with a catheter substantially covering the introducer needle into a human body;

partially retracting the introducer needle inside an end of the catheter to blunt a tip of the introducer needle; and

fully inserting the catheter into the human body.

36. (Original) A process for placing an intravenous catheter into a human body, comprising;

inserting an introducer needle with a catheter substantially covering the needle into a human body;

retracting the introducer needle inside a hollow body of the catheter placement device; and

restricting blood flow into the catheter during and after introducer needle retraction utilizing a boot coupled to the catheter placement device and adapted to perform as a plug in the catheter.

37-38 Cancelled

REMARKS

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his/her convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of the present Amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-2802.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERTSON & MULLINAX, LLC



J. Bennett Mullinax
Reg. No. 36,221